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U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

NEWS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 29, 1991

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BALTICS & SOVIET REPUBLICS

ON EVE OF SUMMIT, DOLE-SIMON AMENDMENT ADOPTED SUPPORTING FREEDOM FOR BALTICS & REPUBLICS

I AM PLEASED TO JOIN THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS, SENATOR SIMON, IN OFFERING THIS AMENDMENT.

IT IS NEARLY IDENTICAL TO LEGISLATION WE OFFERED EARLIER THIS YEAR, S. 860, TO EXPRESS OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION IN THE BALTIC STATES AND THE REPUBLICS OF THE SOVIET UNION.

I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS ISSUE REALLY REQUIRES MUCH MORE DEBATE. THE ISSUES, AND THE POSITION ARTICULATED IN THIS AMENDMENT, HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED AND DEBATED ON THE SENATE FLOOR MANY, MANY TIMES.

CLEARLY, THE BALTIC STATES HAVE TAKEN HISTORIC STEPS TO ASSERT THEIR INDEPENDENCE -- AN INDEPENDENCE WE HAVE LONG ACKNOWLEDGED. AND THERE IS NEARLY UNANIMOUS SUPPORT IN THIS BODY FOR THEIR STRUGGLE.

MANY OF THE CONSTITUENT REPUBLICS OF THE SOVIET UNION HAVE ALSO ASSERTED THEIR SOVEREIGNTY, AND ARE AT VARIOUS PLACES ON THE PATH TO TURN THAT INTENTION INTO A REALITY. AGAIN, THE GOALS FOR WHICH THEY ARE STRUGGLING ENJOY WIDE SUPPORT, BOTH IN THE CONGRESS AND IN THE COUNTRY AT LARGE.

MEANWHILE, THE SOVIET CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IS GRAPPLING WITH ITS OWN PROFOUND AND PROTRACTED POLITICAL CRISIS -- THE RESULTS OF WHICH ARE FAR FROM CLEAR.

U.S. SQUARELY BEHIND FREEDOM FOR BALTICS & REPUBLICS

BUT WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST BE --AND, EQUALLY IMPORTANT, MUST BE SEEN TO BE -- SQUARELY ON THE SIDE OF FREEDOM AND FREE ENTERPRISE, FOR THE BALTICS AND FOR THE REPUBLICS OF THE SOVIET UNION.

WE MUST DO EVERYTHING WE CAN -- IN TERMS OF DIRECT PRESSURE AND MORAL SUASION -- TO SEE THAT THE SOVIET CENTRAL AUTHORITY END ITS AGGRESSION, COERCION, INTIMIDATION AND BLACKMAIL AGAINST THOSE FORCES SEEKING SELF-DETERMINATION AND FREE MARKETS.

WE MUST DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO URGE ALL PARTIES TO PUT ASIDE VIOLENT MEANS TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS, AND INSTEAD PURSUE THEM PEACEFULLY.

WE MUST DO EVERYTHING WE CAN, IN OUR AID AND TRADE POLICIES, TO SUPPORT THE MOVEMENTS FOR FREEDOM IN THE BALTICS AND THE REPUBLICS.

THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT THIS AMENDMENT REQUIRES -- THAT THE U.S. TAKE A STAND CONSISTENT WITH OUR IDEALS AND HISTORY, ON THE SIDE OF FREEDOM.

IT FURTHER REQUIRES REPORTS ON SOVIET POLICIES, AND THE SITUATION IN THE BALTICS AND THE REPUBLICS -- SO THAT THE SENATE WILL HAVE ALL THE FACTS, PARTICULARLY IN SO FAR AS THE SOVIETS DO USE FORCE OR THE THREAT OF FORCE TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS.

AMPLIFYING PRESIDENT'S SUMMIT MESSAGE

PASSAGE OF THIS AMENDMENT COULD NOT BE MORE TIMELY. OUR NATIONAL POLICY HAS CERTAINLY BEEN MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF A MORE DIRECT ASSERTION OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THE MOVEMENTS FOR FREEDOM IN THE BALTICS AND THE REPUBLICS. THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT MEETING WITH RUSSIAN PRESIDENT YELTSIN CAN BE SEEN IN THAT LIGHT.

MORE IMPORTANT, RIGHT NOW, PRESIDENT BUSH IS IN MOSCOW FOR THE SUMMIT. HE WILL GO ON TO KIEV, THE CAPITAL OF UKRAINE -- A STOP THAT WILL SURELY BE SEEN AS ONE SIGN OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. PASSING THIS AMENDMENT AS THOSE EVENTS GO FORWARD WILL CERTAINLY AMPLIFY THE MESSAGE THE PRESIDENT IS DELIVERING, OF OUR SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM AND FREE MARKETS.

I HOPE ALL SENATORS WILL JOIN IN SENDING THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE, BY SUPPORTING THIS AMENDMENT.

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